

aspect of the bill is the development of a nationwide public education campaign informing families of the health risks associated with chronic obesity that provides information on incorporating good eating and regular physical activity into daily living. Lastly, the bill provides resources for health care provider education and training on evaluation and treatment practices for obese children or children at risk of becoming obese.

Overall, this bill has many substantial provisions that will go a long way in improving the health and well-being of our children. This legislation not only expands the base of pediatric medical research currently ongoing, it also includes important enhancements in maternal and prenatal health as well as several other initiatives that will greatly enhance access to services to children with chronic and debilitating diseases.

I am pleased to join my colleagues today on introducing this important legislation, and I look forward to working to pass the bill through the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the full Senate this year.

Thank you, Mr. President.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 74, The Paycheck Fairness Act. Over 30 years ago, President John Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law. At that time women were making only 61 cents for every dollar that was earned by a man. Since that time, we have made significant strides to ensure equality in the workplace, however, the disparity in wages between men and women still exists.

Today, as a nation, women earn 74 cents for every dollar that a man earns. In Montana, the difference is even more significant, women are earning only 69 cents for every dollar that is earned by a man. This translates into more than \$5,000 a year. This is unacceptable. We must have pay equity.

In our state, and the country as a whole, women work a variety of jobs, from minimum wage jobs, to women who run their own businesses. The work that women do is not adequately reflected in the wages that they earn.

In Montana we are faced with a unique situation—we are ranked almost last in per capita income. The economic boom that has created tremendous wealth on Wall Street hasn't echoed on Main Street, Montana. It is necessary to invest our resources to maintain our quality of life while creating good jobs and boosting our working families standard of living. If women were paid equitably, Montana families would greatly benefit. Family incomes would rise and, poverty rates would fall.

Mr. President, pay equity is not the entire solution to the economic development challenge. It is part of a package, we must also invest in and protect our small businesses. After all, small business is the backbone of our econ-

omy. In order to improve jobs and wages in Montana and in the nation, we must maintain our educational systems. When we make additional investments in education and job training, we can attract new businesses to our state, increase our wages, and prepare our children for the jobs of tomorrow.

If we are willing to do these things, economic growth will improve the quality of life for all men and women of Montana.

CONSERVATION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, on September 3, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, or LWCF, was created by Congress to use revenues from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas development—a non-renewable resource—to invest in America's renewable resources by creating parks and open spaces, protecting wilderness, wetlands and refuges, preserving habitat, and enhancing recreational opportunities.

The LWCF has been a remarkable conservation success story. In its 35-year history, LWCF has supported the acquisition of nearly 7 million acres of parkland and the development of more than 37,000 park and recreation projects. In my state of Rhode Island alone, LWCF has invested over \$32 million in nearly 400 state and local parks projects, including \$1.7 million for development of Roger Williams Park in Providence, \$1.1 million for Scarborough State Beach in Narragansett, and \$536,000 for rehabilitation of the famous Cliff Walk in Newport. Because State and local governments provide at least half of initial project costs and assume all operation and maintenance costs in perpetuity, each Federal dollar leverages several dollars in non-Federal contributions.

But despite the LWCF's success, funding for the program has fallen well below its authorized level of \$900 million per year, and the stateside grant program was completely zeroed out in 1995, even as offshore oil and gas revenues increased and the need for parks and open space continued to rise dramatically.

Last year, President Clinton proposed an historic Lands Legacy budget initiative to fully fund the LWCF at its authorized level. Although appropriators did not fully fund the Lands Legacy budget request, Members of Congress are clearly getting the message Americans are sending to Washington about the need for major conservation legislation to promote open space and recreation.

On May 11, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 2000, by a vote of 315-102. The "CARA" bill, which would automatically set aside revenues from offshore oil and gas leases to fully fund the Federal and State LWCF grant programs for the first time in decades, was the product of an extraordinary bipartisan compromise between

the House Resources Committee chairman, DON YOUNG, and the ranking member, GEORGE MILLER. The CARA bill would provide nearly \$3 billion annually until 2015 to support conservation efforts across the country.

All eyes are now on the Senate, Mr. President. Across the country, Americans in cities, suburbs, and rural areas have joined State Governors, city and town planners, wildlife program managers, hunters and fishermen, and environmental organizations to call on the Senate to act on this historic legislation.

Several bills have been introduced in the Senate:

S. 2123, introduced by Senators LANDRIEU and MURKOWSKI, is identical to H.R. 701 as reported by the House Resources Committee;

S. 2567, introduced by Senator BOXER, is identical to H.R. 701 as passed by the full House;

S. 2181, introduced by Senator BINGAMAN, would support many of the same programs as the House bill but would distribute a greater percentage of LWCF stateside funds evenly among the states, benefitting states with small populations, such as Rhode Island. In addition, it would support a number of marine research and conservation programs;

And there are several more bills, all of which seek to fully fund the LWCF and preserve our natural heritage for future generations.

Mr. President, none of these bills is perfect; there is always room for improvement. Members of the Senate may disagree, for example, on how much funding should go to coastal assistance, or federal land acquisition in western states, or endangered species protection. I, for one, believe it is critically important that we provide \$125 million or more each year for the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery, UPARR, program, as well as full annual funding of \$150 million for the Historic Preservation Fund. We should also avoid creating incentives for new offshore oil and gas drilling.

Whatever our differences over the details of this legislation, Mr. President, the important thing is that we pass a bill this year. Any one of these conservation bills would represent an unprecedented and desperately needed investment in our natural resources and our cultural and historic heritage.

But we have to act soon. There are, at best, 33 legislative days left in the 106th Congress. Many members of this body, myself included, are disappointed that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has postponed several markups of the CARA bill. But we understand that Chairman MURKOWSKI and ranking member BINGAMAN are working to satisfy a wide array of regional interests on the Committee, and we continue to hope that an agreement can be reached in time for the Committee to approve the bill next week. We would urge the Majority